



REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION

OF THE

DANTA STATE

FOR THE YEAR

1937-38.

THE ADMINISTRATION REPORT OF THE DANTA STATE FOR THE Year ending 31st March 1938.

CHAPTER I. General and Political.

The Danta State is situated on the north frontier of Gujrat and on the southern line of Rajputana in a local division called "Nani Marwar". It lies between $24^{\circ}.0'$ and $24^{\circ}.23'$ north latitude and between $72^{\circ}.40'$ and $73^{\circ}.5'$ east longitude. Its extreme length from north to south and extreme breadth from east to west are 22 and 20 miles respectively.

2. The State is bounded on the north by the Sirohi State, on the south by the Sudasana Taluka and the Gadhvada Thana (Sabar Kantha Agency) on the east by the Idar State and on the west by the Palanpur State.

3. The country is picturesque, being almost entirely hilly with thick forest save for the southern and western portions which are somewhat

Physical aspect.

plane and open. The Arvali Ranges throw their outlying arms forming numerous hills and valleys, the highest peak "Ghodi" rising 2817 ft. above the sea level. The hills are covered over with considerable forest growth and, owing to the abundance of water, form a natural habitat for wild animals, like, tiger panther, hyena, bear, pig, etc.,. The Country is well drained by numerous small streams which flow throughout the rainy season and empty their contents into either of the two important rivers, the "Sabarmati" and the "Saraswati". The former is the bigger of the two and for a considerable length forms the dividing boundary between the Idar and the Danta States. The latter river though smaller is held very sacred by Hindus all over India. It rises from the "Menagar" hill in the extreme north, flows past the famous temple of Shri Koteswar then runs right through the very heart of this State and subsequently enters the territories of the Palanpur and the Baroda States at a village called Mokeswar. She is also known as "Kumarka" or the Virgin River for the fact that like other rivers she does not join either the sea or a big river but disappears in the Runn (desert) of Cutch.

4. The climate is dry and temperate all throughout the year, the maximum and minimum of temperatures recorded being 110° F. and 48° F. respectively. The hot weather in summer days is

Climate & rain-fall.

Considerably relieved by the cool breezes in the evening and early morning. The rains break out generally at the fag end of June and continue well through July, August and September. The monsoon is at its best in August. The normal annual rain-fall is over 40".

5. The approximate total area of the State is 347 sq. miles, and the population which is scattered in about 212 villages is 26,172 persons (males 13,801 and females 12,371)

Area, population and
Language.

according to the census of 1931, as against 23,023 persons (males 12,087 and females 10,936) of the previous census. Thus during the last decade the population has increased by 13% which is an index of the prosperity, happiness and contentment of the people in general under the present regime. Out of the total population 23,143 are Hindus, 2,727 Mahommedans and 302 professing other religions. The proportion of population to area is 75 per square mile, which is low, indeed, but is mainly due to greater portion of the State being hilly and covered with jungle. The prevailing languages are Gujrati and Marwari, while the Bhil Tribes have a dialect of their own which is a mixture of local Gujrati and Marwari. The court language is Gujrati.

6. The Ruling Prince of Danta is the head of the Parmar clan of Rajputs of the Fire-Race, being a descendant in direct line from Emperor

Early History.

Vikramaditya, the epoch-making monarch in the ancient history of India. The Parmars, who have nearly always remained in

or near the country of Malwa round Ujjain, are said to have at one time held the whole or at least a major portion of Rajputana, which fact gave rise to a popular saying “**पृथ्वी परमारां तणी**” meaning thereby that the earth belongs to Parmars. Raja Dharni Varah, one of the descendants of Vikram who ruled in Rajputana, divided his kingdom amongst his nine brothers, himself keeping only the province of Sind. This division even to the present day is referred to in Rajputana as “**नवकोटी मारवाड**”. The descendants of Dharani Varah ruled Sind in peace for more than three centuries, until the persistent and pressing invasions of Mahomedans on that province forced them to retire elsewhere. Raja Shri Jasrajji, the then Ruler of Sind, came to Mount Arasur, conquered the surrounding country and laid the foundation of the present State of Danta in 1068 A. D.

The successors of Raja Shri Jasrajji considerably extended and consolidated their domain, so much so that at one time the State included the Santpur Tehsil up to Rohira of Sirohi, a tract in Mewar as far as the present Kotra cantonment, a portion of Idar upto Khedbrahma, eastern portion of Palanpur, Kheralu Mahal of Baroda, Gadhvada District and Sudasna estate. Of these the Jagir of Sudasna was given by Maharana Shri Gaj Singhji to his younger brother Jaswant Singhji for maintenance in 1682 A. D., while the Gadhvada District was given in Jagir to Gadhia Koli Chiefs at varying periods for their services to the State. The Kheralu Mahal now included in the Baroda State was mortgaged to

the Suba of Gujrat by Maharana Jethmalji in 1650 A. D., for financing military operations against Rao Jagannath of Idar which resulted in the latter's expulsion from Idar to Polo (Now Vijayanagar in the Sabar Kantha Agency). The long protracted wars between the Raos of Idar and the Rulers of Danta during the 16th and 17th centuries had brought much ruination to the Danta State and had resulted in the dismemberment of the outlying districts.

During the time of Emperor Akbar, one of his sons, Prince Salim, having quarrelled with him had fled from Delhi. He tried to seek shelter in various States of Rajputana, but for fear of incurring the wrath of the Emperor, non/dared to shelter him. At last the Prince sought refuge with Rana Askaranji of Danta (then known as Tarsangmo) who true to his family tradition inscribed on the State Crest “**शरणगत साधार**” readily gave him shelter as befitting a true Kshatriya. After some few years the Prince went to Kathiwar, but was seized by Rao Bharmalji of Cutch and was handed over to the Emperor. The Emperor gave the District of Morbi to Rao Bharmalji for this service. However, when the Emperor and his son had been reconciled and the former was made acquainted with the gallant conduct of Rana Shri Askaranji of Danta towards his son, the Emperor was so much pleased with the fact that as a mark of appreciation he soon after sent a dress of honour and granted the title of “**MAHARANA**” to Rana Shri Askaranji and Prince Salim sent to him a jewelled signet ring.

7. The State had entered into Political relations with the British Government in 1812 A. D.

On the outbreak of the Great European war (1914-1918) the State offered to place the entire resources of the State at the disposal of the Government, and contributed a sum of about a lakh of Rupees towards war expenses.

The Ruling families most closely connected with Danta are those of Tehri, Narsinghgarh, Rajgarh, Sant, Kadana and Muli, while the house of Sudasana as stated above is its offshoot. The Ruling Family of Danta is connected by marriage with the houses of Udaipur, Banswara, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Idar, Sirohi and Dhrangadra.

8. The present Ruling Prince of Danta, Maharanaaji Shri Bhavani Singhji Bahadur was born on
 The State & its Ruler. Bhadrapad Sud 8th Samvat year 1956
 corresponding to the 13th September 1899 A. D., had his training at Mayo College, Ajmer, and was for a number of years associated with the administration of the State before he ascended to the Gadi on the 10th March 1926. The Ruler is a member of the Chamber of Princes (Narendra Mandal) in his own right.

The State is entitled to a permanent dynastic salute of nine guns. The accession to the Gadi is governed by the rule of primogeniture. The State enjoys independent sovereign powers with full civil and criminal jurisdiction with authority to make its own legislation.

9. The Darbar's first marriage took place with the sister of Maharaj Shri Bijai Singhji of Raoti (Jodhpur); and his second with the sister of His Highness the Raja Saheb Bahadur

Particulars of the
Ruler's family.

of Sohawal a State in Bundelkhand Agency C. I. Both the Maharani Sahebas died in 1923, the latter leaving behind her one Maharaj Kumari Saheba. The present Maharaniji Shri Champawatji Saheba is a sister of Thakur Nahar Singhji Saheb of Auwa, a premier noble of Marwar. By her the Maharanaji Saheb Bahadur has four Maharaj Kumars and three Maharaj Kumari Sahebas. Of the four sons, the eldest Maharaj Kumar Shri Prithi Raj Singhji Bahadur born on the 22nd July 1928, is the heir-apparent; the younger Maraj Kumar Shri Madhusudan Singhji Saheb and Maharaj Kumar Shri Raghubir Singhji Saheb were born on the 30th May 1933 and the 4th December 1934 respectively; and the youngest Maharaj Kumar Saheb was born on the 23rd October 1937. The Heir-apparent is being educated at home under the guidance of two well qualified and experienced tutors.

Among other members of the ruling family are Maharaj Shri Laxman Singhji: aged 13 years the nephew, Maharaj Shri Dalpat Singhji aged 57 the uncle, Maharaj Shri Prithi Singhji aged 33 and Maharaj Shri Narayan Singhji aged 31, cousins of the Maharanaji Saheb Bahadur. Maharaj Shri Laxman Singhji is at present receiving education at the Mayo College, Ajmer. The last two named have had their training at the Mayo College,

and are associated with the administration of the State as Dewan and Revenue Commissioner, respectively.

10. The administration of the State is carried on under the personal guidance and direction of the Darbar, with the assistance of the Dewan. The authority and the powers of the head of Departments are well defined and each within his own sphere is independent of the other. In important matters, however, the Darbar are always accessible for advice and guidance; and the success and efficiency so far attained in the administration are mainly due to the Darbar's easy accessibility and conscientious application to the affairs of the State.

11. The State is in direct political relations with the Government of India through the Honourable the Resident for Rajputan and is attached to the Western Rajputana States Agency, Jodhpur.

The Political relations with the Paramount Power and the neighbouring states remained most friendly and cordial as usual.

12. During the year under report the Darbar visited the following places outside the State:—
 Ruler's movement. Mount Abu, Ahmedabad, Ajmer, Bundi, Kotah, Masuda, Bikaner, Dungarpur, and Nadiad. Besides he twice toured through all the Mahals of the State.

13. During the year under, report, the following distinguished

Distinguished Visitors. guests visited the State:—

-His Highness Maharao Raja Shri Sir Ishwari Singhji Bahadur,
G. C. I. E. of Bundi.

His Highness Maharao Shri Sir Sarup Ram Singhji Bahadur,
G. C. I. E., G. C. S. I., of Sirohi.

His Highness Maharawalji Shri Sir Laxman Singhji Bahadur,
K. C. S. I., of Dungarpur.

His Highness Maharaja Shri Himat Singhji Bahadur, of Idar.

His Highness Maharaj Rana Shri Rajendra Singhji Bahadur,
of Jhalawar.

Her Highness the Maharani Saheba of Jhalawar.

His Highness Maharaja Shri Krishna Kumar Singhji Bahadur,
of Bhavnagar.

The Hon'ble Lieut. Col. Sir George Ogilvie, K. C. I. E., C. S. I.,
Resident for Rajputana.

Lady Ogilvie.

Major G. V. B. Gillan, C. I. E.,
Resident, Western Rajputana States.

Mrs. Gillan.

Capt. Maharaj Kumar Shri Sadul Singhji Bahadur, C. V. O.
Heir-apparent of Bikaner.

Maharaj Kumar Shri Virendra Singhji Bahadur,
Heir-apparent of Jhalawar State.

Raja Shri Jagendra Bahadur Singhji of Sohawal.

Thakur Shri Prithi Singhji, C. I. E., of Sudasna.

Rao Bahadur Thakur Shri Bijai Singhji of Masuda.

Raja Shri Partap Singhji of Khandela.

Thakur Shri Madan Singhji of Nawalgarh.

Raja Shri Ranchor Senji of Pisangan.

Thakur Shri Nahar Singhji of Auwa.

Mr. A. E. Drake, I. C. S, Under Secretary

to the Hon'ble the Resident for Rajputana.

Mrs. Drake.

Kumar Shri Hari Senji of Pisangan.

NOTABLE EVENTS OF THE YEAR.

14. (1) The birthday of His Imperial Majesty was celebrated on the 9th June 1937. A Royal Salute was fired at sun-rise and the day observed as a public holiday throughout the State.
- (2) The birthday anniversary of the Heir-apparent Shriman Maharaj Kumar Saheb was celebrated on the 12th August 1937 with great rejoicings.
- (3) The 39th birthday anniversary of the Darbar was celebrated on the 13th September 1937 with great eclat as usual. A public Darbar was held where leading ryots, elite of the town, officers and Jagirdars had assembled to pay their homage to their beloved ruler. Sweets were distributed to the children and food and clothing to the poor and destitute people.
- (4) Out of the Orders of the Mandals that were instituted under the commands of the Darbar

State decorations
and Medals.

for the adequate appreciation
and recognition of the services
rendered by the State officials, public servants and

subjects, the following persons were decorated with the orders of medals mentioned below at the hands of the Darbar on the auspicious occasion of the Darbar's birthday anniversary.

Silver Medals:—Order of Gunadarsha Mandal:—

1. Mr. Salluram Umiyashankar Dave,
Treasury Officer.
2. Mr. Gulabchand Ugarchand Gandhi,
Land Revenue clerk, Revenue Office.
3. Mr. Ravchand Motichand Gandhi,
Establishment clerk, Revenue Office.

(5) Coronation in England of Their Majesties. the King Emperor and the Queen Empress:—

12th May 1937 the day on which Their Majesties, the King Emperor and the Queen Empress were crowned in England was celebrated in the State with great pomp and eclat. The day was announced by firing the Royal Salute and public prayers were offered for the long, happy and prosperous reign of Their Majesties. Sweets were distributed in Schools and food and clothing to the poor destitute persons. At the banquet held at night Royal Toast was proposed by the Darbar and in a short speech which he made on the occasion he dwelt on the traditional loyalty of the Rulers of Danta to the British Crown in the past and assured its continuance in future.

The celebration ended with illuminations and display of fire-works. The day was observed as a public holiday throughout the State.

(6) **Award of Coronation Medals:—**

A special Darbar was held in the Palace on the 22nd July 1937 for the purpose of awarding Coronation Medals, received from the British Government. The Darbar decorated the following persons with the medals:—

- (1) Maharaj Kumar Shri Prithi Raj Singhji Bahadur,
the Heir-asparent.
- (2) Maharaj Shri Prithi Singhji, Dewan,
- (3) Maharaj Shri Narayan Singhji,
Revenue Commissioner.
- (4) Kunwar Bisram Singhji, Private Secretary.
- (5) Thakur Chandan Singhji R. Chavda,
Aid-de-Camp.

The Darbar terminated after a short speech made by the Darbar wherein he assured Their Majesties of the traditional loyalty on behalf of himself and his subjects and prayed for the happy and glorious reign of Their Majesties.

15. The most memorable event of the year, or better still of the past few years, was the

Domestic Occurance.

marriage of Shrimati Maharaj Kumari Shri Jitendra Kunwar Baisaheba, the eldest daughter of the Maharana Saheb Bahadur, with Shriman Rajkumar Shri

Ram Singhji, the heir-apparent of Khandela, a premier noble of Jaipur State (Rajputana). Their engagement was formally ~~and~~ officially announced by the Tikka ceremony performed at Khandela on the 18th April 1937 and the wedding took place at Danta Bhavangadh on the 19th May 1937.

The wedding, for which elaborate arrangements had been made, occasioned great rejoicing throughout the State. The town of Danta Bhavangadh was tastefully decorated with flags and festoons of bunting and arches were erected bearing messages of welcoming the guests, and blessing the happy couple. Schools and Offices in the State were closed. Committees were formed to arrange and look after accomodation and needs of the guests.

The bride-groom's party which arrived by a special train at Abu Road in the early hours of the morning of the 19th May 1937, was received by a few leading nobles, Sardars and high officials of the State at the Station and conveyed to Danta in motor cars. It was then received by other nobles, Sardars and officials outside the town proper. After the reception the guests were taken in procession to their different camps.

At night the bride-groom seated on a richly caparisoned elephant was taken in procession through the town to the Palace, where marriage ceremony was performed according to Vedic rites. Thousands of ryots from the surrounding villages

lined the streets along which the marriage procession passed and cheered the bride-groom.

Among the distinguished persons who attended the wedding were H. H. the Maharao Saheb Bahadur of Sirohi, the Maharaja Kumar Saheb Bahadur of Bikaner, the Raja Sahebs of Sohawal and Khandela, and the Thakur Sahebs of Sudasna, Auwa, Sanla, Bhenswara, Derol, etc.,. The following States were represented by deputations, viz:—Bikaner, Sirohi, Banswara, Palanpur, Morvi, Jhalawar, Narsingarh, Rajgarh, Bharatpur, Dhrangadra, Limdi, Bansda, Sikar, Vijaynagar, Muli, Pethapur, Masuda, Kharwa, Saver, etc.,. Numerous messages of congratulation felicitating the wedded couple were received including those from the Hon'ble the Resident for Rajputana and others.

Another memorable event of the year was the birth of the fourth Maharaj Kumar Saheb on the 23rd October 1937. The occasion was duly celebrated with the distribution of sweets to the children in schools.

16. Death occurred on the 9th August 1937, of Mr. Nanchand Padamsi, P. W. D. Officer, after a long
 Changes in Personnel. and protracted illness of rheumatism.

The State has, indeed, lost in him a hardworking, trustworthy and loyal officer. Mr. Amarsingh Palrey, Head Surveyor, has been tentatively appointed to officiate as P. W. D. Officer vice Mr. Nanchand Padamsi deceased.

17. The statistical figures given in the report relate to the year ending 31st March, excepting those
Statistics. relating to the Revenue Department which follows the old and convenient practice of reckoning its year from November to October, corresponding to the Vikram Samvat year.



CHAPTER II.

Land Administration.

For administrative convenience the State is divided
into five divisions or Mahals, viz.,
Administrative units.

(1) Danta, (2) Mataji, (3) Hadad,
(4) Tarsang and (5) Joita; each except the first, being under
the charge of a Mahalkari who is also a Magistrate.
The Danta Mahal is under the direct charge of the Revenue
Commissioner. One Circle Inspector or Kaltru has been
appointed to each of the five Mahals. All are under the
supervision of the Revenue Commissioner.

2. Maharaj Shri Narayan Singhji Saheb, Revenue Commi-
ssioner, remained in charge of the Depart-
ment all throughout the year.
Personnel.

3. The prevailing land assessment system in vogue is the
Bhag-Batai or share-rental system.
Land Revenue System.
It has, by long experience, been found
beneficial to the conjoined interests of the State and the ryots.

Its success is mainly due to the constant vigilance and efficient supervision of the Revenue Commissioner and the avoidance of delay directed by him in weighing the crops.

4. All the cultivators are tenants-at-will, none of them having any permanent or vested interest in his holding, as he has no right to alienate either by way of mortgage or sale or in any other way the holding in his possession. But so much care is taken in maintaining continuity of tenures that cultivators have continued in their holdings from generation to generation, and transfers of land are very rare.

Nature of Tenancy.

5. The soil in some part of Danta and Joita Mahals is alluvial sandy, formed by the aqueous action of rivers, and that in the other Mahals is clayey loam. The soil is on the whole rich and fertile and is capable of producing good crops.

Nature of Soil.

6. The agricultural population consists chiefly of Dungri Bhils, Garassias, Kolis, Thakardas, Kunbis, Mumans and Rajputs. The Agricultural Population. Bhils and Garassias are very backward and poor agriculturists. They resort to a sort of shifting cultivation and grow only so much as would be sufficient for their wants. These people are yet in a primitive state so far as their social and economic conditions are concerned. Attempts, however, are being made to ameliorate their condition by persuading them to stick

to permanent cultivation. The Kunbis, Mumans and Rajputs are intelligent and hard-working cultivators and are generally well-off economically. The Revenue Commissioner is always on the look out to adopt better expedients to improve the condition of cultivation and the cultivators.

7. During the year under Report the agricultural stock consisted of 8605 oxen, 12,012 cows including calves, 410 he-buffaloes, 7,215 she-buffaloes, 170 horses, 141 mares, 512 donkeys, 15,912 sheep and goats, 3,872 ploughs and 218 carts in the State. There was no serious outbreak of any epidemic among the cattle and the supply of fodder was generally sufficient throughout.

8. The chief Khariff or monsoon crops grown are maize, sesamum, castor-oil seeds, coarse millets and cereals. Among the Rabi or cold weather crops are mainly wheat, gram and rapeseed. a/-

9. Cattle-breeding and animal husbandry form the chief secondary occupations of the agricultural classes. The existence of vast tracts for grazing and the nominal fees charged by the State for the purpose have considerably encouraged this. The wealth of a cultivator is usually reckoned by the number of cattle he owns.

10. Total rain-fall recorded during the year was 46 inches. and 82 cents.

11. There are no irrigation tanks constructed or masonry dams put up across the current of the rivers in the State. By the river side the people usually throw earthen bunds across the current and thus divert water through channels to their fields. Sub-soil water in wells is found fairly well near the surface at a depth of about 25 to 40 feet below the ground level and a number of wells with Arath or Persian-wheels for lifting water are working all throughout the State.

Irrigation for Crops.

12. The total number of pucca wells in the State is 643 of which 35 were sunk during the year under report. The State has always followed the policy of encouraging the ryots to sink more wells by helping them in all possible ways viz:—

Wells.

- (1) By grants of tagavi loan with or without interest repayable by small annual instalments;
- (2) By remission of Vaje (Raj-Bhag) for a certain number of years;
- (3) By paying gratuitously the full expenses of construction.

13. With a view to help the ryots, tagavi advances at a low rate of interest were made to needy cultivators for bonafide productive purposes, viz., for the purchase of seed, cattle, impliments

Tagavi Advances.

sinking of wells, etc., to the extent of Rs. 4,575 during the year under report.

14. The total land revenue, including past arrears amounted to Rs. 62,218 during the year as against Rs. 70,081 of the previous year, decline being due to partial failure of Kharif crops, due to scanty rain-fall of the previous year. The total expenditure of the Revenue Department, during the year under report, amounted to Rs. 6,826.

Revenue Receipt &
Expenditure.

15. Mr. R. P. Kanhere, B. Ag., Assistant Revenue Commissioner, remained in charge of the Boundary Department of the State all throughout the year.

Personnel.

CHAPTER III.

Revenue and Finance.

Income from all sources during the year under review amounted to Rs. 199,840 as against Rs. 196,798 of the previous year, which with the opening balance of Rs. 3,107 brings the total receipt of the year to Rs. 202,947.

Income.

2. The total expenditure during the year under report amounted to Rs. 202,326 as against Rs. 198,246 in the previous year, leaving a balance of Rs. 621 at the close of the year.

Expenditure.

STATEMENT SHOWING RECEIPTS.

No.	Description.	1936-37	1937-38
		Rs.	Rs
	Balance.	4,555	3,107
1	Land Revenue.	✓ 70,081	62,218
2	Local Cess.	312	295
3	Customs Revenue.	✓ 56,204	58,515
4	Forest Revenue.	15,715	18,816
5	Opium Revenue, Abkari Revenue, } including Bhang and Ganja. }	17,625	23,115
6	Stamps and Registration... ..	3,812	3,617
7	Vero.	5,252	5,195
8	Salami.	119	119
9	Nazarana.	2,215	2,571
10	Law and Justice.	6,415	7,115
11	Recoveries.	8,472	7,112
12	Extraordinary receipts.	2,512	3,118
13	Miscellaneous.	4,215	4,519
14	House Site.	3,849	3,515
GRAND TOTAL...		201,353	202,947

STATEMENT SHOWING EXPENDITURE

No.	Description.	1936-37	1937-38.
		Rs.	Rs.
1	Administration. ...	44,054	45,152
2	Police Department. ...	16,955	16,812
3	Education Department. ...	6,315	6,521
4	Medical Department. ...	6,678	6,822
5	P. W. Department. ...	21,015	20,118
6	Palace Expenses. ...	43,351	44,231
7	Raj Kharach. ...	11,015	10,545
8	Dharmada. ...	3,351	3,525
9	Kamgiri. ...	4,525	4,717
10	Stable, Bagikhana and Motors. ...	14,018	15,875
11	Topkhana. ...	1,412	1,371
12	Ghas Dana. ...	2,283	2,283
13	Miscellaneous. ...	4,018	3,937
14	Tagavi. ...	3,018	4,575
15	Pension Gratuity. ...	3,642	3,548
16	Unforeseen Charges. ...	1,981	1,822
17	Body Guards... ...	10,615	10,472
TOTAL...		198,246	202,326
CLOSING BALANCE...		3,107	621
GRAND TOTAL...		201,353	202,947

CHAPTER IV.

Protection.

(1) Law & Justice.

Legislation. The State has some local laws and regulations of its own. The Courts are guided principally by those laws and follow the spirit of British laws in practice and Procedure in matters both Civil and Criminal.

2. For the administration of justice there are in the State the following courts with varying degrees of jurisdictional powers:—

Courts.

- (1) The four Mahalkaris Courts at Shri Mataji, Hadad, Tarsang and Joita which are invested with powers to hear suits up to the value of Rs. 500 and also to exercise the Powers of Second Class Magistrate within their respective Mahals.
- (2) The Court of the State Munsiff, which is empowered to hear all kinds of Civil Suits relating to property and other rights as well as money transactions upto the value of Rs. 5,000. The Court also exercises the powers of the First Class Magistrate
- (3) The Court of the Naib Dewan, which is empowered to hear Civil Suits of the value of more than

Rs. 5,000 on original side up to Rs. 10,000. It also exercises the powers of the District and Sessions Court and as such has the power to hear appeal against the decision of the State Munsiff and First Class Magistrate.

(4) The Court of the Dewan, which exercises the power of High Court. It is endowed with full Civil powers to hear all kinds of suits and is also empowered to hear appeals over the decisions of the Court of the District and Sessions Judge.

(5) The Hazur Court presided over by the Darbar, is the highest and the final Court of appeal in all Civil and Criminal matters.

3. The number of Civil Suits left pending last year was

Civil Suits.

4 and 22 fresh suits were filed during the year under report. Out of the total 26

suits 16 were disposed of leaving a balance of 10 at the end of the year. The total value of fresh suits filed was Rs. 2,391-10-3 as against Rs. 716-8-9 of the past year.

4. The number of offences both cognizable and non-cognizable reported during the year was

Criminal Cases.

110 which, with the balance of 46 of the

last year totaled 156. Out of these, 132 were disposed of and 24 remained pending at the end of the year. Out of the total number of 199 persons brought to trial, 63 were acquitted or discharged, 85 were convicted, 9 were committed to the Sessions and 42 remained pending trial.

The number of Sessions cases in balance was nil and 3 new cases were committed to the Sessions during the year under report. Thus, the total number of cases during the year under report was 3. Out of these, 2 were tried and decided, leaving balance of 1 at the close of the year. The total number of persons sent up for trial was 9, out of which 8 were convicted and 1 remained pending for trial.

5. There was 1 Civil appeal before the Hazur Court which was not decided and remained in arrears. The 1 revision appeal lying in ~~the~~ balance from the previous year was disposed off by the court of the Dewan. The Naib Dewan and District Judge had on board 1 appeal, which remained pending at the close of the year.

Civil Appellate
Works.

6. There was no criminal appeal this year before the Hazur Court. The Court of the Dewan had 3 appeals on board, which were decided confirming the decision of the Lower Court. The Naib Dewan and Sessions Judge had 2 appeals on board, both the appeals were decided with the result that the decision of the Lower Court was modified.

Criminal Appellate
Works.

The very small number of appeals goes to show that the contending parties found their complaints and grievances receiving due and judicious consideration at the hands of the original Courts.

7. There were 9 applications for execution in balance from the past year, and 5 were

Execution of Decrees.

freshly admitted, the total value amounted to Rs. 646-1-6; out of which 10 were disposed of, valuing Rs. 376-7-3 and 4 remained pending, valuing Rs. 269-10-3.

8. The system of direct services of summons between this State and the neighbouring States as well as the British territories is in force and has worked satisfactorily.

Direct System of
Summons.

9. Extradition arrangements for the direct surrender of offenders, between this State and the

Extradition.

neighbouring States of Palanpur, Sirohi, Udaipur, Jodhpur, with the single exception of Idar State, are in force as usual. The following statements give the details of extradition cases and the number of persons surrendered by and to, this State:—

Surrendered by Danta State.

	Cases.	Persons.
To British Authorities...	0	0
To Indian States. ...	2	1
TOTAL...	2	1

Surrendered to Danta State.

	Cases.	Persons.
By British Authorities...	1	1
By Indian States. ...	2	3
TOTAL..	3	4

During the year under report, extradition arrangements based on the Wylie Rules were newly agreed to between Indore and this State on the 22nd September 1937.

10. The Dewan is the Ex-Officio Registrar. During the year under report documents were presented for registration, of which 16 were duly registered. The total value of the property dealt with was Rs. 3,977 and the fees realized for the registration of these documents amounted to Rs. 91-8-0 as against Rs. 67-8-0 in the last year.

(II) Police.

11. For the purpose of administrative convenience and economy in expenditure no separate Military Police Force is maintained in the State, but the total Police Force, which is 150 rank and file, has been divided into (i) foot-police for the maintenance of peace and order and (ii) mounted police for similar duties and for distance patrols.

Besides this there is an irregular Force of Body-Guard consisting of seventy persons and they are all unarmed.

The ratios of the police force to the population and to the area are 1 to 174.5 heads of population and 1 to 2.3 square miles of territory respectively. The proportion may look a little high, but the hilly nature of the country, the extended and long frontiers with foreign States all around, the turbulent nature of

hill tribes (Bhill and Grassias) inhabiting on both sides and their mischevious propensities, all these and other considerations necessitate for the State the maintenance of a strong consolidated Police force for proper and effective Bandobast.

12. The Department remained throughout in charge of
 Personnel. Mr. Takhat Singh R. Chawda, the Assistant Superintendent of Police, assisted by one Inspector of Police and 5 Sub-Inspectors of Police posted in the different Mahals. The proper training of the Police in drill and discipline is looked after by these officers; while for the training of the Body-Guard the State has engaged the services of a war veteran Mr. Sohan Singh a discharged non-commissioned officer of the 13th Rajput Infantry, who has seen active life in Mesopotemia and East Africa during the Great War.

13. The Police Force is supplied with full uniform dresses
 Equipment. and is armed with 154 breach loading rifles.

14. The following statement shows the working of the
 Police Working. Policc during the year under report:—

Cases reported.	...	...	62
Accused arrested.	...	...	58
Accused sent for trial.	...	...	58
Persons convicted.	...	...	48
Acquitted or discharged.	...	...	6
Percentage of conviction.	...	...	80 P. C.

15. The total value of the property stolen and recovered during the year was Rs. 5,464-8-6 and Rs. 1320-9-3 respectively, which brings the figures of percentage of recoveries to nearly $24\frac{1}{2}$ P. C.

Property stolen and recovered.

16. There were this year 2 deaths from various occurrences and other accidents caused by fire, as shown below:—

Accident.

Suicides	...	...	...	0
Snake bite...	...	...	...	1
Drowning	...	...	...	1
Burns	...	...	...	0
Killed by wild beasts	...	...	...	0
Other accidents	...	...	...	0
Fires	...	...	...	0
				<hr/>
TOTAL...				2

17. The total expenditure of the Police Department this year came to Rs. 16,812 as against Rs. 16,848 of the last year.

Expenditure.

(III) Jail.

18. There are Lock-ups at Shri Mataji, Hadad, Vijlasan (Tarsang Mahal) and Joita, and Central Jail at Danta Bhavangadh. The number of persons confined during the year under report was 67 as against 83 in the last year. The sanitary arrangements are very good and the discipline is very

well maintained. Arrangements are made to keep male and female prisoners separate from one another.

19. The general health of the prisoners was very good throughout the year under report. They do indoor works such as grinding grain and other manual labour. The Darbar's keen desire to impart industrial training to the prisoners, so as to enable them to earn their livelihood after their release, in an honest and peaceful way, has been partially fulfilled by the introduction of carpet weaving in the Central Jail at Danta Bhavangadh, during the year under report. It is satisfying to note that a large number of jail inmates have readily taken ^{to} learning carpet weaving and have showed considerable aptitude for it.

20. The First Class Magistrate works ex-officio as Superintendent of Jail and the Chief Medical Officer looks after the health of prisoners.

CHAPTER V.

Production and Distribution.

The main sources of production are agriculture, cattle breeding and forest.

Sources of Production.

2. The population of the State mainly consists of agriculturists. Only a few who are without the means either of land or capital and are consequently out of employment are available as day-labourers in fields or in the Public Works Department. The following statement gives an idea of the daily wages of skilled artisans and unskilled labour prevailing during the year

Wages Labour and Prices.

Unskilled labour.	...	...	Rs. 0-3-0
Blacksmiths.	...	...	Rs. 1-0-0
Masons.	...	...	Rs. 1-0-0
Carpenters.	...	...	Rs. 1-0-0

The uneven distribution of rains entailed a comparative depression in the production of seasonal crops and a consequent

rise in the prices of staple food-stuffs resulted, which will be evident from the comparative list of the prices of the last, year, given below:—

Name of the food-stuff.	Past year	Present year.
	Rs. as. ps.	Rs. as. ps.
Wheat.	... 1-10-0	2-4-0 per 40 lbs.
Bajri.	... 1-8-0	2-0-0
Oats.	... 1-7-0	2-0-0
Maize.	... 1-6-0	1-12-0
Mug pulse.	... 3-0-0	4-0-0
Udad pulse.	... 2-8-0	3-0-0
Coarse-millet.	... 1-8-0	1-12-0

3. The chief trade of the State consists in the export of the surplus produce of agriculture

Export & Import.

viz., wheat, maize, gram, rape-seed, Ghee, etc., and forest products, viz., bamboo, baskets, gums, honey, wax white musli, etc., The chief imports are sugar, cloth, salt, cereals, spices, condiments, kerosine, stationery, cutlery, brass and copper wares etc.

4. An ad-valorem customs duty is levied on all imports and exports in accordance with the revised schedule of rates passed and put into force from 30th October 1932.

Customs on Exports
and Imports.

The total receipts under this head during year under report amounted to Rs. 58515 as against Rs. 56204 of the last year.

5. The enhancement of speculative transactions in all the

Trade condition.

markets of the world ranging from raw iron to raw materials of every type such as cotton, grains, seeds etc., consequent on the anticipations of a coming war, led to unseen rise in the various markets, and the prices of all sorts of commodities saw a spasmodic and spurious rise in the State markets also.

6. The existing roads were repaired and consolidated

Roads.

wherever necessary. Four new culverts were constructed on the road from Shri Ambaji to Danta Bhavangadh.

The total length of the motorable roads in the State is 256 miles, out of which 135 miles are roads serviceable only during the 8 months of fair weather, while the roads serviceable all throughout the year even during the monsoon are 121 miles. The people of the State have thus been afforded the facilities of easy communications as far as possible.

7. Motor Lorry Services are regularly run by private

Motor Services.

individuals between (1) Palanpur and Danta Bhavangadh, (2) Shree Mataji and Danta Bhavangadh, and (3) Shree Mataji and Koteswar, for carrying passengers and goods. The State has also given a monopoly to Messrs Merwanji Rustomji & Co., of Mount Abu, to run a motor service between Shree Mataji and

Abu Road. This motor service has been regularly working since 1st March 1934.

8. The Public Works Department of the State spent an aggregate sum of Rs. 20,118 on original works and repairs, during the year under report. A new sluice valve was set up on the Hadad Tank in order to regulate the outflow of water from it.

Public Works
Department.

9. There are great possibilities of developing the forest resources of the State by laying out plantation of valuable timber, such as teak, by extraction of catechu from Khair and by propagation and culture of lac on Khakhara trees. The reorganisation of the Forest Department so as to make it more efficient and paying, is under the contemplation of the Darbar.

Forest.

The present sources of Forest Revenue are fees charged for cutting bamboos and timber, for grazing cattle and for collecting timbru leaves, Aval bark, gums, honey, wax, etc., The total Forest Revenue for the year under review was Rs. 18,816 as against Rs. 15,715 in the previous year.

10. There exist large deposits of marble of a superiar grade and type in the vicinity of Shree Mataji. It is, however, at present not worked out for want of railway transport facility.

Quarries.

11. A monopoly for the distillation and sale of liquor for local consumption within the State limits

Excise and Abkari.

has been granted to a private individual.

The distillery is situated at the Capital town, from which country-liquor is supplied to 22 shops for retail vend. Opium and other narcotic drugs for local consumption were imported from Government Depots at Indore and Ahmedabad. The total gross Revenue under the combined heads of Excise and Abkari amounted to Rs. 23,115 during the year under report as against Rs. 17,626 in the previous year.

CHAPTER VI.

Education.

General. The control of the Educational Department rests exclusively with the State. Education, both primary and secondary, is imparted free throughout the State. The department was under the supervision of Mr. Madhavsingh B. Rao throughout the year.

2. The State maintains one Anglo Vernacular School and a separate Girls' School at the Capital town of Danta Bhavangadh and five vernacular primary schools in the mofussil at Navowas, Motasada, Shri Mataji, Pethapur and Hadad. These schools are working satisfactorily and the attendance is regular. The Anglo Vernacular School at the Capital imparts instruction in Gujrati upto VII standard and in English upto III standard. The School at Pethapur was started during the course of the year.

School for Boys.

3. The Girls' School, which was started only two years, back, is being availed of by the public more and more every year, as is evidenced by the increasing number of girls attending it. The increase in number can be taken as a fair index of the keen interest taken by the public for the education of

their children both boys and girls, and is a very good sign of advancement and material progress of the people.

4. Moral and physical training of the students is carefully attended to. They are paraded every-day in their respective classes to say the morning prayers, and two periods per week are devoted to giving them moral instructions. There is a spacious play ground on the outskirts of the Capital, where they are daily taken out to play cricket, football and other out-door games.

Moral and Physical
Training.

5. The head of the Department at Danta Bhavangadh is a trained hand and he has been able to introduce scouting in the Institution with considerable success. A batch of 40 boy-scouts has been well trained, disciplined and drilled. The Darbar has been pleased to equip them with uniform dresses etc., from the State funds. A batch of 30 senior scouts was taken out on an excursion on foot to Shree Mataji during the Navratri days and had a delightful outing for nearly a week.

Boy-Scout Movement.

6. During the year under report scholarships were granted for studies outside the State, as shown below:—

Scholarships.

- 4 for Upper Secondary Education.
- 1 for Medical Studies.
- 3 for Sanskrit and Vedic Studies.
- 1 for Police Training.

7. On the occasion of the birthday anniversary of Shri Maharaj Kumar Saheb a special programme of athletic sports for boys and girls of the school was arranged. Prizes were distributed by the Maharanaji Saheb Bahadur to the winners and to those who had come out successful in the annual examinations in the presence of a large gathering of officers and citizens.

8. The total number of students on rolls during the year was 304 and the average daily attendance was 67.9% which clearly shows the enhanced interest taken by the State and parents in the education of children.

9. Total expenditure on education during the year under report, including grant of scholarships, amounted to Rs. 6,521 as against Rs. 6,315 in the previous year.

CHAPTER VII.

Medical Relief & Vital Statistic.

There is one Hospital at Danta Bhavangadh and
one Dispensary at Shree Ambaji.
Medical Institutions.

Both these institutions are entirely
charitable and are equipped and maintained by the State.

2. During the year under report the Department remained
in charge of Dr. Shivnath Singh M. Rao,
Personnel. M. B. B. S., (Bom.) Chief Medical
Officer, Danta State.

3. At both the centres in and out patients were treated
free. Urgent cases were attended to in
Medical Relief. the districts also without charging any
fees. The total number of out-door patients was 17,092. The
total number of in-door patients was 37. The average daily
attendance of old and new cases was 47%.

4. More surgical work was done during the year under
Surgical Operations. report, the total aggregating 499.

5. Principal diseases and ailments treated during the year
were mostly of the digestive system, respiratory
Diseases. system, of the eye, ears, nose, throat and
intestinal parasites, venereal diseases, local and general injuries,
wounds fevers and septic ulcers.

6. There were no epidemics like small-pox, cholera, meningitis or plague. Due to free distribution of quinine there was a less number of malaria cases this year in comparison with the number of the last year.

Epidemics.

7. No case of hydro-phobia occurred. Snake-bite cases were promptly attended to and were cured.

Anti-Rabid Treatment.

Few cases of guinea-worms were recorded and wells were disinfected as preventive measure.

8. 489 persons were vaccinated during this year with the lymph imported from Belgaum Vaccine Institute.

Vaccination.

9. The general health of public was good throughout the year.

10. The total expenditure incurred during the year for medical relief including vaccination and sanitary arrangements amounted to Rs. 6,822 as against Rs. 6,778 in the previous year.

Expenditure.

11. The total number of births and deaths reported was 193 and 269 respectively.

Vital Statistic.

CHAPTER VIII.

Miscellaneous.

° There are various old places of interest in the State from the religious point of view as well as from the point of view, both of architecture and natural scenery.

Places of interest and
Fairs held.

The chief celebrated places among them are noted below:—

Shree Ambaji:—This is a very ancient and sacred place where there is a holy shrine of Shree Ambika Mataji. The temple is dedicated to the Divine Mother and is annually visited by thousands of pilgrims from all parts of India. Fairs are held every full-moon day and during Navratri days.

Koteshwar:—This is a temple of God Shiva, situated on the hill slopes and at the source of the holy river Sarsvati and is at a distance of 4 miles from Shree Mataji. All pilgrims visiting Shree Mataji go to this sacred place also.

Kumbharia:—These are a collections of five Jain old temples built by Vimalshah in the 11th century. They are built of local marble and contain fine specimens of exquisite

carving. They are two miles away from Shree Mataji. Many Jains and other pilgrims come here to pay homage to the wonderful marble images.

Mokeshwar:—This is a cave temple of God Shiva on the bank of the river Sarsvati. A fair is annually held on the 11th day of the bright half of Bhadrapad.

Maneknath:—This is a cave temple on Maneknath hill in the Tarsang Mahal so called after a very famous Hindu Saint of the 15th century. A fair is held annually on the Gokul Ashtami day.

Sitla Mata:—This is a temple near Pethapur. A fair is held at the Sitla Mata on the Sitla Saptami day in the month of Shravan every year.

Chamundaji:—This is temple near Vasi. A fair is held there in the month of Ashad every year.

2. The State is served by the Indian Posts and Telegraph Department. There is a combined
Post and Telegraph. Post and Telegraph office at Danta-Bhavangadh and a branch Post Office at Shree Mataji.

3. The State maintains a Telephone system of its own,
Telephone. connecting important Thanas of the State to the Capital. It has greatly facilitated the administrative machinery and especially the work of the public servants in speedily checking and detecting crimes.

4. There are two Flour Mills, one at Shree Mataji and the other at the Capital, one belonging to a private enterpriser and the other to the State.

Flour Mills.

Both are working satisfactorily.

5. The foregoing account of administration is on the whole gratifying, and this is mainly due to the sympathetic guidance, able direction, great

Conclusion.

care and personal supervision of the Darbar to whom my most grateful, and profound thanks are due. My warm appreciation and thanks are also due to the officers of the State for their hearty co-operation.

DANTA-BHAVANGADH.

DATED 1st August 1938.

}

PRITHI SINGH

MAHARAJ,

Ag Dewan, Danta State.



